

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Hackney's OTHER Newspaper

11 Upper Heyford Blockaders Charged

PEACE ON TRIAL



PIC: HENDY

Eleven CND members from Hackney and Tower Hamlets were arrested in early June when they took part in a peace blockade of the US Air force base at Upper Heyford. They have been meeting regularly to consider the best way to fight their cases on charges of obstruction.

NOT GUILTY

Originally scheduled to appear individually in Banbury Magistrates court throughout July, it was decided to write jointly to the clerk of the court stating their intention of pleading "Not Guilty" to the charges. They are accused with wilful obstruction that was committed "without

just cause or reason". Naturally, the group feel they have reasons and causes aplenty. They asked that their pleas be accepted without an initial court appearance and that they be tried together as a group.

This has been largely accepted; one group of three will be tried on August 12 and another of eight on August 23.

TELL US ANOTHER ONE

A section of Hackney's creasing water mains system burst last month -- underneath busy Lower Clapton Road, leaving a 20 foot crater and flooding the area around St John's Church.

The next morning the scene looked as though the Hackney Liberation Army had launched a mortar attack on the Clapton police station, but narrowly missed. The burst could have been caused by a small crack,

but massive amounts of water seeped out causing the road foundations to subside. The road surface around the gaping hole was buckled and folded as though a small earthquake had struck.

Ten feet of 24" piping had to be replaced and it will take up to two weeks to repair a 30 yard section of Lower Clapton Road. All buses using that route have been diverted down Pembury Road.

It's Enough To Make You Sick...

The planned re-organisation of Hackney's hospital services got a public airing last month. A packed and emotionally charged meeting organised by the City and Hackney Community Health Council heard the views not just of officials but also of health workers, trade unionists and concerned members of the public.

At the centre of discussion was the threatened closure of FOUR existing hospitals: St Leonard's, St Matthew's, The German and Mothers. Under the plan these hospitals will make way for one new large general unit at 'Homerton' hospital. Hackney and St John's hospitals would remain open, the former concentrating on services for the elderly and mentally ill and the latter on psychiatric cases.

Homerton hospital

The commissioning team for Homerton hospital presented a detailed and seemingly attractive picture of the new complex -- low rise buildings, a "homely" environment and all the advantages of modern medical technology. Speakers from the floor however expressed fears about access to this showpiece, bearing in mind its small car park and possible traffic jams created by the proposed M11 extension. Patients would be expected to cross busy Homerton High Street to reach the other side of the site. Increased

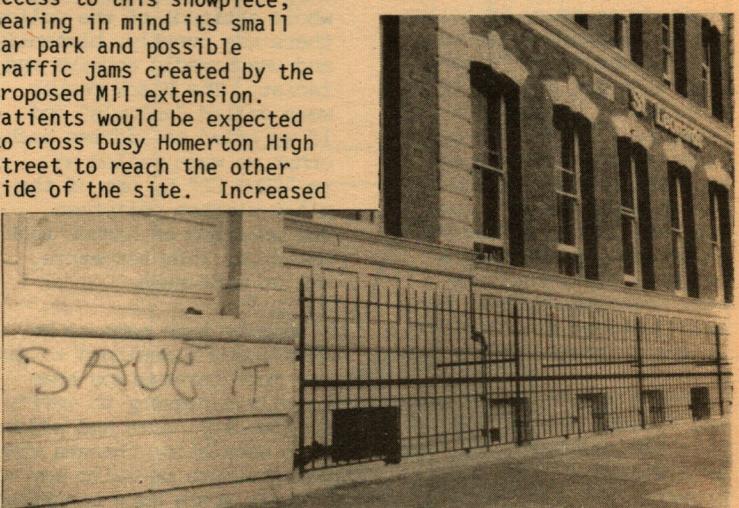
traffic and cars parked on narrow side streets and nearby estates would seriously effect the local environment and be a danger to kids.

The Commissioning team replied that there was going to be a lot more space available for parking after the hospital was completed in 1986. (Some cynics doubted that building would be complete, or that health services would be available by then.) They also stated that the Health Authority opposed the M11 extension.

As part of a London-wide Health Authority campaign the team was "in discussion" with London Transport over getting better services. They also hinted that if all else failed, they could set up their own bus service with partnership funds. As for patients needing to move between the two sites, this would only be necessary when specialised facilities were needed, for example X-rays.

Time and time again the issue of accessibility was raised from the floor. The casual responses of the platform speakers showed how little the District Health Authority was aware of the everyday circumstances of Hackney residents.

continued on back page...



Picture: Ian Priddie

Inside

Police trouble
Greenham

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★

POLICE DEADLOCK

Hackney Council and the Home Office have reached a complete deadlock over their rival proposals to set up liaison committees between the police and the public. The Council wrote to the Home Office with their proposals in July 1982 and since then they have failed to get any satisfactory explanation as to why their proposals are not acceptable.

Now the police have started making wild accusations about extreme left-wing agitators

ACCUSATIONS

going around London stirring up trouble over the police. The Council and the Support Committee for the family of Colin Roach, who died in extremely suspicious circumstances from a shotgun blast in Stoke Newington Police Station, have been amazed by London's police commissioner Sir Kenneth Newman's remarks. Anthony Kendall, Hackney Council leader, said: "Newman's highly political statements have displayed just how dangerously unaware he is of the real facts of life in areas like Hackney. Local people are worried and angry about policing standards, and we have an obligation as local representatives to get this over to the top brass at New Scotland Yard."



The essential difference between Hackney Council's proposals for police liaison and what the Home Office wants is that the Council wants to keep it under the wing of the local authority. A "free-standing" committee, with no local authority back-up and an agenda set and determined by the police, would be extremely vulnerable to walk out and collapse in Hackney, where relations can be tense. They are not proposing that the police should be directly accountable to the local council. That would be impossible under the current law, where the police in London are accountable only to the Home Secretary.

What Hackney wants to see was described to HPP by the

council's police committee chair, Brynley Heaven: "We want the public -- members of the community, tenants and residents associations, councillors, local MPs and so on -- to be able to say to the police what they

LOCAL PRIORITIES

consider policing, crime and public order priorities for their area should be. The alternative, currently operating in Lambeth, lets the police determine what the liaison committee discusses, and local groups are used to implement their proposals. Newman's plan merely seeks to achieve legitimacy for what the police have already set up. If the liaison committee isn't linked to

public demands then after any aggravation -- and that could come in months rather than years -- it will break up."

Heaven's warning has a prophetic ring to it. In mid July Zoufi Maknoweiss was arrested in Ridley Road, we print her letter elsewhere on this page. At the end of the month an ugly incident took place at the corner of Kingsland High St

MENACING DOGS

and Sandringham Road. It took about four car and three van loads of police plus about five dogs to arrest six people -- again there was the potentially explosive situation of white officers arresting black people in a sensitive area.

We believe that three people were charged and two people bitten by dogs during this incident. Ironically the following day (29/7/83) The Hackney Gazette carried a story headed "Nothing menacing about these dogs" with a picture of five cute looking Alsations that must have taken the Met's P.R. photography section some time to set up. In reality the dogs were all over the place, yapping at people, increasing the general level of confusion and tension.

How they are supposed to reduce the level of street

crime and burglaries is hard to see. That they are used to intimidate members of the public and keep them at a distance while the police do whatever they wish (justified or not) was easier to see.

There can be little reason for the excessive presence of dogs in Kingsland High Street over the last month. Why are they not always held on a lead? We have even heard reports that the dogs have been left to wander up and down the road by themselves! This unit of eight dogs is the first of its kind in London and will shortly be moving on to other areas.

Hackney's loss will be someone else's "gain". No doubt another area with a high ethnic minority population. Not that we have lost them for good. The inspector would like to have them back!

Now that the deadline has passed for the setting up of a liaison committee to provide democratic accountability it looks as if the police prefer to deal with the threat of further street disturbances by the use of more oppressive tactics such as the concentrated use of dogs.

Who's protecting our rights?

Dear HPP,
Around 4 o'clock on July 15th I was leaving Ridley Road market when I witnessed what I thought was a racist attack. Four big bodied, topless men, one of whom was in shorts, were brutally man-handling two young Black women with an 8 month-old baby.

I inquired what they were doing and as a member of the public asked them to stop their unnecessary brutality. All the answers I got were several shouts of "Clear off, it's got nothing to do with you". Upon my not doing so I was threatened with arrest, although at no point did any of the scantily-dressed men involved make clear, either verbally or by presenting a badge or card, that they were policemen rather than self-justiced stall-holders or racist thugs.

Then a police van drew up and I found myself with my left arm twisted in my back as I was told I was under arrest. The 2 women, baby and push-chair were herded into the van where I joined them. Immediately the man in shorts who was grabbing me tried to get some information out of me, 'under shock': "Have you been arrested before? ANSWER! Have you been arrested?"

In the van on the way through various backstreets to Stoke Newington police station one of the men re-

marked that they should have "got" the ones in yellow, to which another replied that they would "get" them another day. Is our police force so overstuffed that their consequent boredom makes them into a danger to the public?

Upon arrival at the Stoke Newington police station I noticed immediately my "incongruous presence" as the only white arrestee. The whole attitude of the police there was overtly, blatantly and unashamedly abusive and racist. The Black people were called "animals" and if we tried to address each other we were yelled at to "SHUT UP" by one of the plain clothes policemen. The attitude of higher rank officers, like sergeants, was no different.

When my turn came to be questioned I declined to give any more information than legally necessary to verify my identity: name and address. With escalating threats they put pressure on me to say more "You're gonna have breakfast with us tomorrow morning". They told me that I was going to be taken to Holloway prison for the weekend and asked where I got these funny ideas that I had any rights AT ALL inside a police station.

As I still would not give more information -- and was denied access to a solicitor -- I was taken, on my own, to a cell. In the corridor in front of the open cell the

charging officer, G3, invoked the Immigration Laws. He said he would call the Home Office and bring the Immigration Officers in and that it would be a further criminal offence to refuse to answer them, because "with a name like that you can't be British". He told me I was already charged with "obstruction of a police officer in the full exercise of his duties", a criminal offence liable to imprisonment.

He then declared "From now on I am acting with the full powers of an Immigration Officer under Decree 25(sic), chapter ?, paragraph ?. You now have the duty to answer me." This ceremony was performed in the presence of my arresting officer. The charging officer succeeded in intimidating me into giving 3 more facts for the computer: date and place of birth, and occupation.

Do I have to mention the fact that all the other detainees had immediately answered all police questions, knowing of the dangers involved in trying to have your basic legal and human rights respected in such a place?

I was then locked in the cell for 2 more hours, after being told it would take 3 minutes to verify who I was. The cell was dirty and the inside of the cell's little spy window was covered in dried blood. I then re-

membered that Colin Roach met his death in that very police station.

While I was in the cell, the police proceeded to a so-called verification of address: 2 police officers went to my home and asked whether somebody with an altogether different name lived there. When the people present asked whether it was a woman or a man, the police looked at each other, bemused, and said "a man". As I happen to be a woman the people said "no". When, after many calls for attention from my cell, the charging officer finally came back, he triumphantly announced I was "not living there". I protested and gave the phone number. He called it, not declaring himself as a police officer, but simply asking whether "Zoufi is in". He was told I was not and I was released soon after that, past 7pm.

The women I was arrested with AND THE BABY were still in custody when I left. No food had been provided for the baby, let alone anybody else.

Can I still believe that the "innocent until proved guilty" habeas corpus is still in use in this country? At the moment of my arrest, while being dragged away, the man in shorts yelled at me to "go and protest in Russia". Are we really that much better off in Britain today?

The women I was arrested with were charged with attempted theft, which they denied all the way.

This was a horrifying and shaking experience for me but it reminded me with a jolt that this is the daily bread of the Black and Asian populations of Britain today.

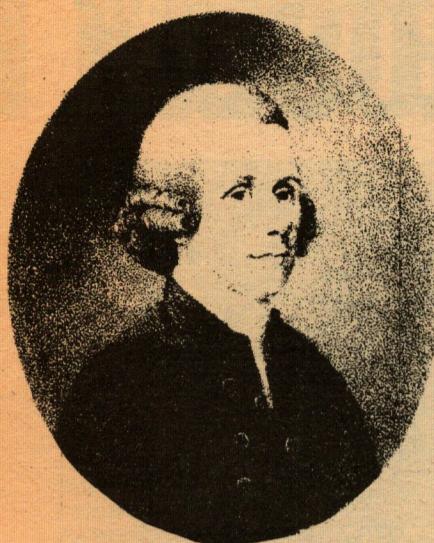
Is it pure coincidence, or is there ANY link with what I saw in Stoke Newington police station, that 80% of the women in Holloway prison are Black and on remand, awaiting trial for up to a year, accused of "petty crime".

When will the white population of Britain realise that by its indifference and turning away we are responsible for the escalating discrimination and criminalisation of our Black population and paving the way for British apartheid (for example the new Immigration laws enforced in January).

Yours,
Zoufi Maknoweiss
(This letter has been edited for reasons of space.)

VINDICATION

STOP PRESS: On Friday July 29, magistrates at Old Street Court found Zoufi Maknoweiss not guilty on charges of obstruction.



Priestly honoured by GLC plaque

Last month we printed an article on Joseph Priestley by Mike Gray. Readers will be pleased to know that we've just heard that the GLC has agreed to erect a blue plaque to him on the old chapel in Ram Place near Morning Lane where he gave his farewell speech before emigrating in 1794. The inscription has yet to be decided, but it is hoped it will be erected early next year.

Saying 'No' to Cruise missiles with their nuclear-powered explosive warheads is a serious job. Organising without bosses was the way the women were doing it; this was the impression I gained after a day at Greenham. In industry, we are told that this is not possible, because production would not take place. However, if a group of people believe in something enough, it is possible.

There are nine gates at Greenham military base. I only saw the hundred or so women outside the main gate, and on this day no motor transport was entering that way. Arriving soon after 8am in the morning, I saw four United States Army Air Force men walk out. They had to walk over the women's bodies. The women had gathered sitting down and huddling together outside the left-hand part of the main gate which was standing open through the day, being guarded by about ten Ministry of Defence police. The number of police varied during the day, being increased whenever exits or entrances of staff through the gates was expected, such as at lunchtime, or from 4.30 pm onwards. Women administrative staff, male civilians, as well as the military men and police had to step over the women's bodies. However while I was there, I did not see any police leave or enter on foot. Presumably they all came by motor transport

through another gate. Whenever there was activity, the women sang, "Were you there when they bombed Hiroshima? Were you there when the women saved the world?" and other resistance songs such as "We shall overcome". There were several new songs composed by the Greenham women. I began to understand the meaning of non-violent resistance, and how when the nucleus had started it is much easier to learn one from another. During

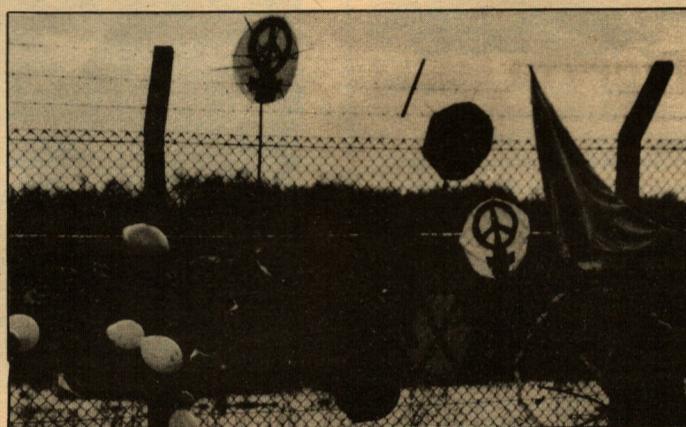
guards, on duty just behind the fence were a regiment of Scottish soldiers. This base was called an RAF base but in reality it was an USAF base. I attempted the walk from the main gate to the next one, and found that the Scottish soldiers liked to chat or at least call out a greeting. I had a great deal of argumentative though non-aggressive conversation with them. Each one busily reported something on their walkie-talkies as I passed.

shops at Newbury. There was a standpipe near the road opposite the camp to provide water for drinking and all other purposes. The whole place was kept as tidy as possible, and I noticed the absence of litter near the heavy plastic tents.

The Women's Peace Camp is as non-violent as possible. The only deliberate violence I observed that day came from a civilian male employee of the base who deliberately used undue force against women when entering, standing on a woman's face. The dozen or so others who had entered that day had not used deliberate violence. An outside policeman — in the ordinary police, not MOD — told me that this was common assault, which was not serious enough to be a police matter.

Many, many people — whether or not they agree with the actions of the Greenham women — are opposed to the deployment of these evil instruments of mass destruction, upon which scarce resources are being expended — Cruise missiles and Trident, adding to an armory already full — it is to be hoped that their voices for peace will be listened to before it is too late.

Joan



this blockade week, there were many visitors taking part, including a group of older women called 'Grannies against the bomb'.

The opposing group of people who are preparing the site and building the silos for Cruise missiles are principally US Air Force men. The families of these men are living in specially built houses behind the high perimeter fence, topped by barbed wire. The perimeter

Greenham is a Woman's peace camp, but men, though not taking part in the action, were welcomed to take friendly photographs, to give other support and find out what was happening. Outside the main gate women had been forming a blockade all day on the hot dusty road surface, in spite of tiredness, heat exhaustion and the difficulty of getting provisions, for it was a long bus ride to the

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FRAUD SQUAD FLOP

Last March and April, a Specialist Claims Control (SCC) team of the DHSS spent 6 weeks at the Hackney office in Sylvester Road to uncover "widespread fraud" that supposedly existed in the Hackney Supplementary Benefit system.

The team will be returning to the Shoreditch DHSS office in the near future.

Several local organisations, including the Hackney Centre for the Unemployed, the Claimant's union and local members of the DHSS unions — the CPSA and the SCPS, co-operated to mount a campaign against the SCC, in order to make the public aware of what the SCC are and what methods of investigation they use. More importantly the campaign informed claimants of their rights if their cases were investigated by the "super-snappers". (See HPP No. 83)

The team cut short its visit by two weeks and only interviewed 85 claimants instead of the proposed 130. This was no doubt due to adverse publicity and a lack of targets. The visit cost £7,500 according to the DHSS but that is a dubious figure that is based only on sala-

ries and not on extra perks for the team like subsistence, mileage allowances and administration costs. The real figure is nearer £12,000.

In one letter to the Hackney Centre for the Unemployed, the DHSS claimed that the visit resulted in savings of £44,853. This figure is a projection over the next year and since any (or all) of the voluntarily withdrawn could have already been reinstated it is totally misleading. There were in fact only 7 claims withdrawn and 0 (zero!) prosecutions.

CLAIMANTS FIGHT BACK

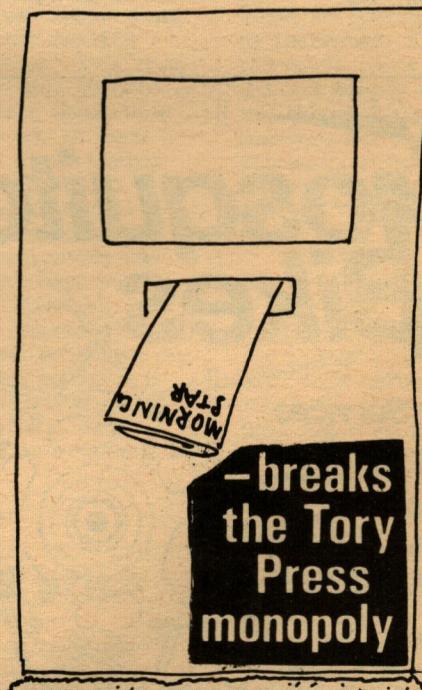
The financial result from the DHSS's point of view was a failure and no amount of manipulation of the figures can obscure that fact. We would like to think that it failed because of the awareness that our campaign generated and because there just isn't any widespread fraud. Similar campaigns around the country have produced the same result.

However one aspect of the SCC visit we feel needs further investigation by DHSS chiefs is that of the methods employed by the SCC, especially intimidation.

Following certain complaints made to us by claimants we made representations to the then DHSS minister Hugh Rossi. Not surprisingly the complaints were dismissed, even when we produced substantiation. One complaint in particular concerned an SCC officer who introduced himself by saying: "Hello, I'm from the Gestapo." This happened on several occasions to our knowledge and not only did it offend the claimants concerned, it indicates a serious lack of sensitivity and possibly a breach of the secret SCC operating instructions (the notorious Circ. Fig (RO) 2).

The DHSS say that "it is not in the public interest" for Circ. Fig. (RO) 2 to be made available — we think otherwise. If you, as a member of the public would like to know why the DHSS has "secrets" not for the likes of you, or if you have a specific complaint about the SCC, why not get in touch with us at the Hackney Centre for the Unemployed.

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CO-OPERATING CLOSELY I

The first co-operative street in the country was celebrated in Hackney in July as the first phase of a scheme set up by

Hackney Co-op Developments opened. Bradbury Street in Dalston has been virtually derelict for five years until the site was leased from Hackney Council by HCD. They have been developed with partnership funds from the Department of the Environment. The first ten co-ops have already moved in, and many more are expected to follow when the development is complete. HPP's reporter mingled with the crowds on the first day, and you can read her account on this page, along with special features on a number of co-ops.

ANARRES MULTI-MEDIA

ANARRES MULTI-MEDIA CO-OP has been functioning for 2½ years and moved to Bradbury Street from premises in Clerkenwell close. Video production is their main activity, but they also run a drop-in audio cassette copying service. As well as commercial video work, they collaborate with community groups and take their clients' budgets into account when setting their rates.

They have worked with a number of theatre groups, producing promotion videos and recording performances. They have also run a youth video workshop in Highbury.

Anarres came about because the workers felt that the only way for community organisations to gain access to the latest technology was to set up a co-op for that purpose. Their aim: to make video facilities accessible and known to as many people as possible.

An off-shoot from the group is a new microcomputer and software consultancy. This two-person mini co-op will use the Anarres Apple microcomputer to generate video graphics and provide a full programming service. The two workers will also give advice to community groups who wish to set up computer systems, and more importantly they are offering to help groups avoid high-tech

white elephants and choose the right equipment for their requirements. Their specialty is educational software and computer games.

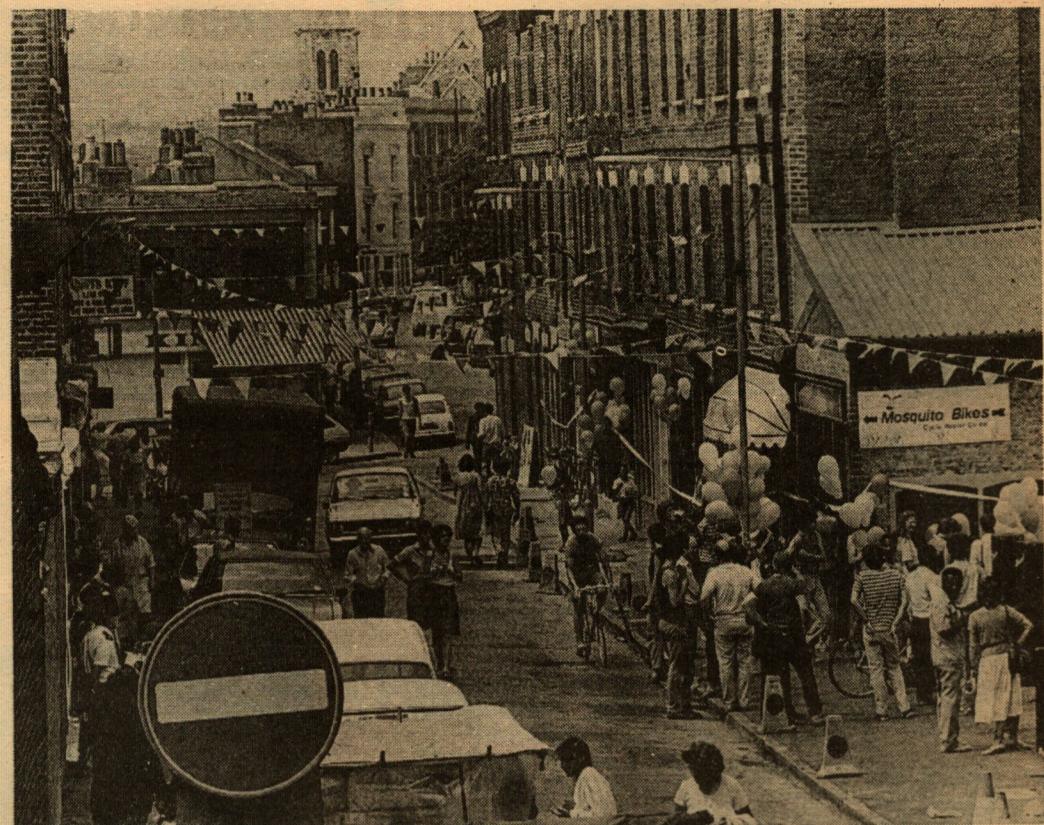
HONEYBEE

Honeybee, which restores antique furniture, has been going now for over two years.

The co-op specialises in Victorian and Edwardian furniture, restoring it to a high standard. They restore whatever pieces of suitable furniture they can find - chests, wardrobes, washstands - and have become expert in dealing with a variety of different kinds of wood - oak, walnut and mahogany as well as the more usual pine - and finish them off either with French polish or with a contemporary sealer.

The co-op was under the wing of Bootstrap in its early years and received a great deal of help from them. None of the three full-time or two part-time workers had previous experience as a furniture restorer, so they all had to pick up the skills as they went along, besides building up knowledge of how a business needs to operate.

Over the years, Honeybee has established a reputation for itself, chiefly building up its clientele by word of mouth, and is certain that now it has its own premises, it will continue to expand.



OPENING DAY

The day of the Bradbury Street opening ceremony must have been hand picked. The sun blazed down on a steel band, jugglers and punk poet John Cooper Clark.

The carnival atmosphere was accentuated by coloured bunting strung across the street and balloons that were loosed off, purposefully or otherwise, into the sky.

Hackney's Deputy Mayor officially opened Britain's first co-operative street and his sentiments were warmly appreciated by the crowd that basked in the sunshine.

He congratulated HCD and Bootstrap Enterprises on getting the scheme off the ground. When the speeches were over I wandered down the road past a florist, bicycle repair co-op, TV repair and sale shop and a furniture restoration shop.

Hungry for information, I vanished inside Alpha Omega TV repairers. Inside were two pleasant young men and we talked about grant-aid,

funding, the early days and their development, personalities, decision-making and the involvement of the guiding organisations. They came over as being very friendly, talented young people, full of guts and determination, who refused to be condemned to the dole queue.

Someone fetched me some food from Pacho Mama, the Chilean caterers and we talked well into the afternoon. The lads were happy to talk and proud of their achievement. And were they making a living? "Yes, thank you -- we wouldn't want to work in any other way."

I moved on and met a number of young men working on a multi-media project. They were very pleased with their new offices — they are very nice working conditions — and saw no funding problems, at least for the next six months.

According to Malcolm Cumberbatch of HCD, Hackney Council is thinking of cutting back on grants to co-ops.

He added however that there are plenty of other sources for co-op seed money: private trusts, Inner-city Partnership, the Greater London Enterprise Board and a host



of other organisations. For the moment at least, Malcolm maintains that any good idea will receive ample funding.

I found the co-op workers to be ambitious, hard-working and dedicated people who deserve to go far. Bradbury Street is an eye-opener and hopefully will be the first of many co-op centres in the East End. Now is the time to create your own job, working conditions and satisfaction.

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ON BRADBURY STREET

TROJAN PRINTING

TROJAN PRINTING SERVICES has come a long way since they were set up in a front room in a house on Balls Pond Road doing odd bits of duplicating. Now they have moved into large workshop premises in Bradbury Street and for the first time in four years they have something approaching adequate premises. They have four workers (two women, two men) and have rapidly established themselves as Hackney's foremost community printer.

"We like to think of ourselves doing good quality print work" they told HPP "and being local, we are able to give Hackney people a rapid job turnaround." Their new premises means

that they can offer a more extensive service and greater speed. And being in Dalston, rather than a remote part of Stoke Newington, means that they are closer to where most people work.

For many years, Trojan have also been badge manufacturers and this remains an important part of their work. They still reckon that they can produce badges for campaigns as cheaply and quickly as anyone else in the country, and they can give expert advice on design and preparation of artwork to give your design more impact.

Last, but not least, Trojan fulfills an important function in Hackney's

life. It provides not only HPP with a mailing address and a dumping ground for our junk, but it also gives us space to do our layout and production one weekend a month. For this, we are always eternally grateful and we reckon their service and quality reflect this helpful spirit. (Plug, plug, plug...!)

ALPHA OMEGA

ALPHA OMEGA TV REPAIR started with the assistance of Bootstrap Enterprises.

Danny and Bernard had worked on a Brass Tacks training scheme. When their project finished, Danny says, "We decided to do something for ourselves." After taking the necessary exams the two were able to set up their electronics co-op.

They are using their new premises as a showroom and are keeping their old premises at Ashwin street as a workshop.

Since moving into Bradbury Street Danny says, "repairs have been coming in like crazy". Last month Alpha Omega's workforce increased by 50% when they hired a new worker -- named Martin. As their business expands, the three hope to move into electronics design.



The damp and squalour of Trojan's last premises.

MOSQUITO BIKES

MOSQUITO BIKES have established themselves as Hackney's foremost cycle repairers. Like Alpha Omega and Honeybee, Mosquito grew out from under the protective umbrella of Bootstrap Enterprises.

Bike-riders will appreciate the accessibility of the new Bradbury street location compared to Mosquito's old shop in Ashwin Street.

There is one access problem however, for Bradbury Street is one-way and there is no entry to it from Kingsland High Street. Perish the thought that responsible bicyclists would violate traffic regulations!

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BLOOMS

BUDS 'N'



BUDS 'N' BLOOMS, a flower shop, is the end of four years' search for Mrs Betty Cooper and her daughter Debbie. They have both

worked in florists before but now at last they have found a place of their own at a rent they can afford.

CAZENOVE ARCHITECTS

CAZENOVE ARCHITECTS CO-OP specialises in rehabilitation work for publicly-funded bodies. Their principal clients are housing co-ops who want to improve their properties. The workers praised the design of the new Bradbury Street premises.

Cazenove became a co-op after running as a traditional practice. Roger Barcroft, who used to be in charge, is far happier working as a co-op member. "It's such a reasonable way to work. I'm surprised more people don't do it."



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STEPTOES WINE BAR, N16

Pricewise, Chudly is 80p/pint, Tiger 82, Sam Smiths 82, Cider 86, Double Dragon 90, ESB 93, Skol 94, Lowenbrau 98. For a bottle of wine, Mosel is £4.30, Blanc de Blanc £4.90 and Beaujolais £5.50. Although we didn't get excited about the Blanc de Blanc it seemed to go down nicely.

Although we didn't eat on this visit, I have eaten there before and enjoyed the range and quality of the food available, but again it can be expensive. Some of the cheaper snacks are Jacket Potatoes 55p, Quiche 85p and Ploughmans from 90p.

Beer quality

The hot weather may have had something to do with the quality of the beer for, despite being sober and equipped with functioning taste buds, the real ale had a tendency to taste the same - drinkable but unrecognisable. But other pubs can keep good ale in the hot weather, so this can't fully excuse poor beer, especially when it's at a premium price. For instance, despite having lived in Everards home town of Leicester, I couldn't recognise their Tiger as such, while I simply didn't enjoy the Greene King Abbot Ale. However, our American friend Elizabeth enjoyed this, saying "It's better than Schlitz." What must Schlitz taste like, I ask myself?

THE TRUTH REVEALED

Now here is a confession for all of you who think that this column is really a front for the Campaign for Real Ale - my favourite drink of the evening was the Dortmunder Union Lager! Despite Elizabeth describing it as "skunky" - an uncompromisingly description I'm told - I felt that it actually tasted like a lager should, smooth and well balanced. Well, I've said it. What's to become of me now? Think I'll adjourn to my cellar, with a suitcase and a bottle opener, hide behind my crate of lager until this time next month, praying that the CAMRA heavies don't come in the night, intent on drowning me in the next brew of Dortmunder....

Choice & price

The first thing that you notice about the beer is that they have a wonderful selection of real ales and keg beers; second thing you notice is that they tend to be on the pricey side; and thirdly you notice that the range of real ale is perhaps too large to ensure a consistently high quality.

An alternative for Women

If you are a woman and want to train for a new career in something rather different from the usual women's fields, you should find a new course being run by Hackney College useful.

The course will give women a first introduction to a range of different skills - construction (carpentry, painting and decorating, plumbing), electrical and electronic repair (maintenance work on domestic electrical appliances) and computer appreciation (for the City & Guilds computer appreciation certificate).

knowledge

The course will give a basic working knowledge of tools, techniques and some theory. As a back-up to the practical study, there will be maths, English, careers, confidence training and 'using the community'. Self defence may also be an option.

The course is intended for women who have not had a chance to do any training

for this kind of career, whether because they have been looking after children, took no practical or technical subject at school or were dissuaded from manual trades as not being 'suitable for women'.

second chance

At the end of the 18 week course women will not be skilled workers, but should be in a good position to go on to further specialised training.

The course runs from September at three centres in Hackney, from Wednesday to Friday each week. Since it lasts for less than 21 hours each week, those attending will still be

Any woman over 19 and interested in the course 'Equip', should contact at the college either Wendy Forrest (985 8484 X 258) or Sylvia O'Brien (X292) who will be very pleased to give you all the information you need.

CARNIVAL TIME!



PART OF LAST YEAR'S FINSBURY PARK CARNIVAL PROCESSION. Picture courtesy of Ken Auguste.

Finsbury Park Carnival will again be taking place over the August Bank Holiday weekend, at:

Finsbury Park Sports Arena
from 2am to 2pm featuring
Calypso and Steel Band com-
petitions plus the amaz-
ing King and Queen Show.
Children £2, Adults £3 in
advance, £4 on the gate.

A children's carnival will take place in Finsbury Park on the 28th and the main events will come on Bank Holiday Monday, the 29th. The carnival procession will leave Clissold Park at 11am and proceed to the main arena in Finsbury Park.

Any money raised will go to local community groups. For more information, contact Ken Auguste, Stoke Newington Community Centre, Leswin Road, N16.

Although much of the information should be obvious, it is nonetheless useful to have it compiled as a checklist of things that need to be done.

Festival guide

Hackney Festivals Support Group has just published a new manual on how to organise a community festival.

Called "Hackney's Local Festivals Manual", it is packed with loads of common sense information on what pitfalls to watch for and how to go about planning.

It is a well produced book-
let with lots of pictures.
My only criticism is that
while it is very good on
official council contacts,
more community addresses
would have been useful. In-
deed, an index of contacts
would have been a useful
addition.

The booklet is free and can be obtained from the Hackney Festivals Support Group at Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT.

FUN AND GAMES IN AUGUST

WHAT'S ON

Meetings

HACKNEY ARTS AND LEISURE FORUM

6th August 11am - 5 pm

HALF Media Group are planning a showcase event for those involved in local media activities (film, video, tape slide, photography, print & publishing). The purpose is to bring together groups and individuals to show each other what they're doing, share ideas and get to know one another.

Exhibition space and a limited number of stalls.

At the RIO CINEMA.

Details from HALF Media Group, c/o RIO cinema, Kingsland High St, E8

Other events

CENTERPRISE SUMMER SCHEME

August 2 - 26

For ALL young people aged 8 to 18

At 136 Kingsland High St, London E8

2nd - 12th Mural paint- & photography (mixed)

16th - 19th Photography (girls)

23rd - 24th Kites (girls)

25th - 26th Kites (mixed)

11 am - 4.30 pm

Friday 26th August - FREE

DISCO

ADVERTISEMENT

CHATS PALACE HOMERTON COMMUNITY CENTRE 42 BROOKSEY'S WALK E.9. 986 6714

AUGUST CALENDAR

Important: As Chats Palace has a club licence all users of the building must be members or their guests.

Wed 3 Chatsbah Night. Live music in the bar. Guest musicians welcome. Free

Thu 4 Our 1st Dance Special. Afro-Caribbean dance class led by Hazel Williams. £1.50/75p unwaged

Fri 5 *Must Dance Productions present a sizzling hot dance evening with the best of Reggae. £3/£2 unwaged.

Sat 6 Chats Palace Barn Dance with Bees Knees. £2/£1 unwaged.

Sun 7 Lunchtime Jazz with Ruthie Smith and friends. Free

Wed 10 Chatsbah Night. Live music in the bar. Guest musicians welcome. Free.

Thu 11 Our 2nd Dance Special. Rock 'n' Roll dance class led by Warren. £1.50/75p unwaged.

Fri 12 Dr. D's Rhythm Miracle Disco. £1.50/75p unwaged.

Sat 13 Chats Palace present Jiblet Dance Theatre Company in an exciting evening of dance. £2/£1

Sun 14 Lunchtime Jazz with the Rae James Quintet. Free

Wed 17 Chatsbah Night. Live music in the bar. Guest musicians welcome. Free.

Thu 18 Our 3rd Dance Special. Ballroom and Latin American dance class. £1.50/75p unwaged

Fri 19 *Hackney Health Emergency Benefit with Jazira plus Dr D's Rhythm Miracle Disco. £2.50/£1 unwaged.

Sat 20 *A showcase of Caribbean dance, music and theatre with Tropical Girls. £2/£1 unwaged.

Sun 21 Lunchtime Jazz with The Mike Mower Quartet. Free

Wed 24 Chatsbah Night. Live music in the bar. Guest musicians welcome. Free.

Thu 25 Our 4th Dance Special. Modern Jazz dance class led by Teresa Noble. £1.50/75p unwaged.

Fri 26 "Party Nite at The Brooksby's Arms". For senior citizens. Free

Sat 27 *Pyramid Arts Development invite you for a night of Jazz, Reggae and modern music and dance. £2/£1 unwaged

Sun 28 Lunchtime Jazz with The Roland Perrin Quartet. Free

Wed 31 Chatsbah Night. Live music in the bar. Guest musicians welcome. Free.

*indicates outside hirer.



HACKNEY FESTIVAL FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

August 1 - September 3

A month long event by and for the girls and young women. Creche/ playgroup available.

Clissold Park School and Daniel House Clissold Rd, N16

Wheelchair access

Transport/Info ring 249 1045/7266

FREE SWIMMING LESSONS

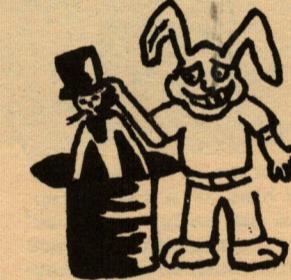
Hackney Council are running free swimming lessons from Monday to Friday during August at local Hackney swimming pools, given by qualified instructors.

Lower Clapton Baths
9.00 - 12 noon
Whiston Road Baths & Clissold Rd Baths,
9.00 - 11.30 am

DALSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE PROJECT - STREET FESTIVAL

September 3

Dalston Community Centre Project is planning a street festival to celebrate its first year of existence. Theatre, dance, music, food, exhibitions, games and all fun things. If you would like to contribute and join in, contact Tina Lord at the Project c/o 54 Montague Rd, E8 (by post) or call at 62 Montague Rd. Tel: 254 0984



FREE CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

Hackney Council's free entertainment for children will be taking place at local schools, parks and baths all through August (see the chart for venues and dates).

The shows include:

JUDY & PUNCH - puppets by Di Seaney

MONSTER SPLASH - a play by Inner City Theatre for 5 - 12 year olds

BUS STOP THEATRE - double-decker bus full of juggling, mime, music masks, songs for up to 12 year olds.

DISCO by Mike Holland

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE BANANA by Soapbox Theatre

NEPTUNES CAVERN & THE UGLY BABY by Jactito Puppets

DISCO by Mark 7

COMEDY MAGIC by Dot and Peb

SKY HIGH - Theatre of Thelema

All for children up to 12.

Music

DANCE AND LIVE MUSIC IN LOCAL PARKS

Hackney Council is running free Old Time and Modern Sequence dance classes in Clissold Park on Tuesdays at 7pm throughout August.

August 2, 9, 16, and 23, The Martin Sullivan Band, Masters of Ceremonies Frank Warren and Eva Leggatt.

Free outdoor Sunday concerts on Sundays at 2.30 in Clissold Park in August:

14th: Pyewackett Ceilidh Band
21st: City Twilights Steel Band
28th: Brian Leeks Sweet & Sour Jazz

At Haggerston Park, E2
August 7th at 2.30 - City Twilights Steel Band.

ADVERTISEMENT

Peace

SONG FOR PEACE COMPETITION to celebrate the Hackney Show & Festival '83 theme of PEACE.

First prize: Free recording of your song at Wave Records 1 Hoxton Square, N1.

CLOSING DATE: 31st August.
ENTRY FORMS available from:
Arts & Entertainments Office,
Shoreditch Town Hall,
380 Old Street, EC1V 9LT.

Cinema

ADVERTISEMENT

107 Kingsland High St, E8
Tel: 254 6677

Near Dalston Kingsland & Dalston Junction BR stns.
Buses: 67, 76, 149 & 243

MATINEES

THURSDAY 4 2.15pm CHILDREN'S SHOW THE OPTIMISTS OF HUENE SILE + Flash Gordon! 25p under 15s/Adult £1

SUNDAY 7 THE LOVELESS 2.45 ERASERHEAD 4.20

WEDNESDAY 10 2.15pm SWEET CHARIOT and BURNING AN ILLUSION 50p under 15s/Adult £1

THURSDAY 11 2.15pm CHILDREN'S SHOW SPIDERMAN + FLAS... Garden and Cartoons!! 25p under 15s/Adult £1

SUNDAY 14 2.45 ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE + BOXCAR BERTHA A Scorsese Double bill!

WEDNESDAY 18 2.15pm CHILDREN'S SHOW 5,000 FINGERS OF DR. T + Flash & Cartoons!! 25p under 15s/Adult £1

SUNDAY 21 2.30 THE PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 24 2.15 TRUE ROMANCE and GREGORY'S GIRL 50p Under 15s/Adults £1

THURSDAY 25 2.15 CHILDREN'S SHOW CAPTAIN STIRRICK + Flash G. & Cartoons! 25p under 15s/Adult £1

SUNDAY 28 2.30 THE PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 31 2.15 CHILDREN'S SHOW FANTASY IN FULL SWING EXP... 25p under 15s/Adult £1

THURSDAY 25 to WED 31 FANTASY IN FULL SWING EXP... 25p under 15s/Adult £1

Theatre

HALF MOON THEATRE

213 Mile End Road, E1

Tel: 790 4900

Showing throughout August:

THE RAGGED TROUSERED PHILANTHROPISTS

A play by Stephen Lowe, based on the book by Robert Tressell.

'Robert Tressell's socialist classic, one of the greatest novels of the 20th century, was never more relevant. Tressell's themes - work, the lack of it, and the manipulation of both workers and management by the Capitalist system - are brilliantly portrayed in Stephen Lowe's acclaimed adaptation.'

Monday - Saturday 8 p.m.

Prices: Mon - Thursday £3.00 (students, Children, OAPs £2.00) Fri & Sat £4.00 FREE TO UNEMPLOYED SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY OF TICKETS

ODYSSEY THEATRE

Tufnell Park Tavern,

Tufnell Park Rd, N7

Tel: 340 5885

From August 9 till August 28 (not Thursdays)

THE LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

A new play by Anne Caulfield.

'Set in Notting Hill Gate, the play invites us into the colourful, fast-talking world of today's Teds. The central character, Larry, a confused but genuine 19-year-old, sees one illusion after another exploded in his search for someone or something he can believe in.'

Health plan: cont from page 1

DISTRICT AUTHORITY'S VIEW

District Health Authority Chair Louis Friedman delivered the message: "We must look ahead to the future". Ken Grant, District Medical Officer, explained that the reorganisation plan reflected choices made within the constraints laid down by Government and the Regional Health Authority. Despite denials, National Health

Service management practice is now moving along the road to privatisation with "turn-over" and "through-put" being actively encouraged. Wherever possible, patients who would otherwise be in hospital should be returned to the community for after-care in their own homes or in small nursing home type units.

This might work in prosperous areas, but it completely ignores the special needs of deprived inner-city areas like Hackney which have poor housing and lack adequate support services. This is yet another example of glib monetarist economics being followed and leaving "the community" to pick up the pieces. But can the community cope?

TRADE UNION OPINIONS

A number of speakers from the Trade Union umbrella group Hackney Health Emergency pointed out that reorganisation would take away hospital beds for which there is already a proven demand. 332 job losses would deprive the area of something like £2m in spending power. Talk about putting patients back into the community as soon as possible ignored the fact that Hackney's Social Services Department could offer no primary or after-care service at present and, without government support, could not afford to do so in the future. The reorganisation plans were not surprising bearing in mind that half the membership of the District Health Authority didn't live in the area.

FINAL DECISION IN AUTUMN

The reorganisation plan will come up for consideration by the District Health Authority at its meeting on September 26. If there are still objections to it from the Community Health Council the final decision will be taken by the Secretary of State. This seems likely as there is little chance that the CHC and the DHA will reach an agreement.

As DHA Chair Louis Friedman suggested when talking about his open support for privatisation of ancillary services, "one does have to humour the Minister, doesn't one". It's enough to make you sick.

ADVICE

Do you want to see your MP? Ernie Roberts, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington will be holding advice surgeries every Sunday at 11am at 96a Stoke Newington High Street, N16

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

Perhaps this issue of HPP is the first one you've ever seen. Perhaps you've bought the odd copy in the past, but never regularly. Perhaps you are a devoted monthly reader (there are some!).

Whatever you are, did you know that you can help write or produce the next issue? All you have to do is come to our open editorial meeting, which will be held in Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8 at 8pm on Wednesday 17 August

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish the paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor and no shareholders, and no one is paid by the paper.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and shops throughout Hackney. If your newsagent doesn't sell it - and you think that he or she would like to, then please contact us. We can arrange delivery on sale or return regularly at the beginning of each month.

If you enjoy reading HPP and think that more people should read it please get in touch with us if you are willing to sell a few copies to friends or neighbours or at meetings. Even if you don't have the time to get more fully involved, we would still be pleased to hear from you.

- Take out a subscription to HPP and guarantee regular delivery! Just send a cheque/PO for £3.30 for one year's subscription to Hackney People's Press, c/o Trojan, 10a Bradbury Street, N16. Please make cheques payable to HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS.

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Telephone: 806 9211
(evenings and weekends only)

HACKNEY COUNCIL HAS MANY CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES. THEIR FUTURE IS UNCERTAIN: WE ASK

DEMOCRACY: MORE OR LESS?

Last month we reported on the Council banning the newly elected co-opted representatives from Hackney Community Action and Hackney Ethnic Minorities Association. The good news is that the council has reversed its earlier decision and pending the review in September these reps on the various council committees can again play a full part with voting rights.

At the July meeting of HCA the community groups "umbrella" organisation, it was agreed to oppose the suggestion that paid workers of community groups should not be allowed to stand. Although it was felt that it would be open to loopholes, the main objection was that these people are often the ones with the most experience.

Co-opted representatives are often the specialists in a particular area, they may therefore have a narrower perspective than the councillors, but this need not be a bad thing. Surely

the reason that the councillors are there is to represent the views of the ordinary people? There was a feeling that if various groups were not sufficiently represented then the council ought to be looking at its own selection procedures rather than that of the community groups.

Another point of view was that if the council wants reps to take part of the rap for any possible surcharges that might be levied against people, then the groups putting forward co-optees should also have places on the Policy and Resources Committee and the full Council.

Although the Trades Council aren't against a review as such and haven't been affected by the ban on newly elected reps, they are concerned about the suggestion that only people living in the borough should be eligible. One of their reps lives in a neighbouring borough, but works "just around the corner from the Town Hall."

Is it fair that such people should be barred?

These are just a few of the main issues to be considered. The meeting with the council at the Town Hall is not until Tuesday 13 Sept at 7.30pm, so we have all August to consider our response. Hackney Community Action in particular would like to get together with other affected groups to see what common action could be taken if we fail to reach an agreement with the council. Should we all walk out together in protest?

The Council claim to be fully committed to opening up the Town Hall and to the policy of co-opting people onto the council committees. Will their policy be reflected in their actions? Let's hope that common sense will prevail and a way found of making co-options work in an agreed and democratic way; otherwise it could be in danger of breaking down before it has been given a proper chance.

Hackney comes clean?

Hackney Council were recently awarded a special mention certificate from the Keep Britain Tidy campaign. The certificate is reputedly given for 'outstanding effort in promoting the improvement of the environment, including litter abatement'.

This award lacks any vestige of credibility to anybody who lives in or walks the streets of Hackney. The addition of a number of yellow bins is a small step forward but cannot count as a major improvement in the borough's standards, either in the degree of litter or general upgrading of the environment. What incentive do the public have to care more about litter disposal, for example, when a substantial percentage of Hackney buildings, private and council, are derelict and boarded up, or in an appalling condition. Until the Council begin to provide a real example in caring for the environment, the decay that abounds will continue to make Hackney a deprived and depressing borough to live and (for the lucky few) to work in.

STOP MEDIA RACISM

In view of the fact that the media affect the quality of life for everyone, it would be appropriate for Hackney Council to defend the interests of the borough's residents, perhaps by setting up a media sub-committee.

The freedom of the press must be supported, but freedom is the right to do anything except what is harmful to other people. Newspapers that encourage racial prejudice must not be tolerated. The council's intention to combat pornography is also welcome.

It is also important that people from ethnic minorities be allowed to work in the media, and I am grateful for the council's support for my campaign for racial equality in television. Unfortunately the same kind of support has not been received from the GLC. It has now become abundantly clear that the GLC discriminates against Orthodox Jews. I am prepared to supply evidence of this, and I should be very pleased if Hackney Council could use its influence with the GLC to persuade them to desist from their policy of selective racial discrimi-

nation. Antisemitism is no more acceptable than any other form of racism even if it is directed only against Orthodox Jews.

There are no doubt many GLC members and officers who agree with this view, and the GLC should now state explicitly that it will not condone any form of antisemitism.

Henri Brand

It's the same old story....

The following lines were discovered by the Federation of Hackney Tenants' Associations in the community wing of Shoreditch Town Hall:

We trained very hard, but it seemed that every time we were beginning to form up into teams, we would be reorganised. I was to learn later in life that we tend to meet any situation by reorganising and a wonderful method it can be for creating the illusion of progress, while producing confusion, inefficiency and demoralisation.

(Caius Petronius AD 66)

